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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

7 June 1971

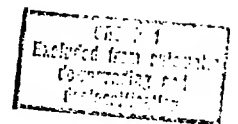
MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Clark MacGregor

SUBJECT: Background on Laotian Operations

Per your request there follows answers to the questions you raised on events in Laos to use in today's Senate debate.

A. Geneva Accords

The Geneva Accords were signed on 23 July 1962. These Accords followed a series of North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao offensives in 1961 and early 1962 during which a good part of northeast Laos was taken over by the Communist forces. The Conference convened in Geneva in May 1962 after a tenuous cease fire was agreed to by the three Lao factions -- Rightist, Neutralist and Pathet Lao. The Accords provided for a withdrawal of all foreign military personnel within the country within 75 days of the signing. All U. S. military advisory personnel departed before the 7 October 1962 deadline. However only 40 North Vietnamese troops were withdrawn leaving behind an estimated 5,000 to 6,000 combat troops. Open hostilities broke out in April 1963 when the Communist forces attacked the neutralist forces of the Lao Government on the Plain of Jars. Also in the spring of 1963, the North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao increased their military operations in south and central Laos.



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Precepts For Reviewing Transcript of Senate Secret
Session on Laos of June 7, 1971

1. Matters previously disclosed:

- (a) President Nixon's March 6, 1970 statement on Laos.

(Note particularly: "...we have continued to provide military assistance to regular and irregular Laotian forces in the form of equipment, training and logistics."

- (b) Symington Subcommittee's published transcript on Laos.

- (c) Edited text of closed session of the Senate of December 15, 1969 on Laos. (Congressional Record of January 21, 1970, E-151.)

(Note: 90 million for RLA.)

- (d) State Department Spokesman's press briefing of June 7, 1971.

(In essence, that we have supported Thai volunteers with money and supplies, and that this is fully consistent with all pertinent legislation.)

- (e) Secretary Rogers' press conference of June 15, 1971, to the effect that the 1971 net program for Laos, apart from the cost of the bombing, was about \$350 million.



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Washington, D.C. 20520

June 18, 1971

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Secretary has asked me to reply to your letter of June 15, 1971, in which you requested a responsible official be designated to review on behalf of the Executive Branch the transcript of the proceedings of the closed session of the Senate on June 7 for the purpose of recommending what material should be deleted.

The Secretary has designated Mr. Joseph Wolf to conduct this review. As you are aware, this matter is of direct and special concern to the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency as well as the Department of State. Thus, in order for Mr. Wolf to conduct this review expeditiously, it will be necessary for him to be accompanied by a representative from each of those agencies.

If this procedure is acceptable, we will be happy to work out the details with Mr. Marcy and the Committee staff.

Sincerely,

David M. Abshire
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

The Honorable

J. W. Fulbright, Chairman,
Committee on Foreign Relations,
United States Senate.

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

CFE

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. OLC

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Prepared at the request of the Director to [REDACTED] on phone.

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